

United States Senate

September 19, 2019

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
THE BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am encouraged by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) efforts to explore additional spectrum bands for delivering 5G services to communities across the country, including in rural America. These efforts will help ensure that the United States advances in 5G, and will aid in closing the digital divide.

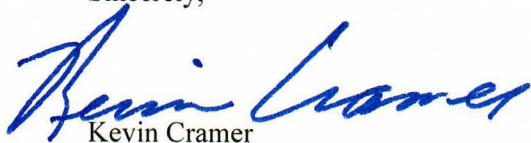
Mid-band spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band (or "C-Band") is particularly well-suited for 5G services. Given the importance of the C-Band to the deployment of 5G nationwide, I urge the Commission to repurpose as much of this spectrum as possible for 5G wireless use, while ensuring current video use is maintained and reliable during this transition of spectrum resources. I appreciate that broadcasters, cable operators, and video programmers use the C-Band to distribute programming, and the services provided by these groups must continue uninterrupted regardless of the framework adopted.

The FCC must also ensure that the C-Band auction is transparent and competitive, ensuring an inclusive, fair process for all interested parties. Therefore, I urge the FCC to strongly consider leading a traditional public auction for reapportionment of a percentage of C-Band spectrum. However, the FCC should not underestimate the importance of timeliness in freeing up spectrum so carriers can begin deploying 5G services more widely. 5G has the potential to unleash innovation across the American economy, and our nation stands to benefit from substantial job growth, positive economic ripple effects to the tune of trillions of dollars, and a competitive edge over our adversaries. Should the FCC elect to lead the auction, freeing up C-Band spectrum for 5G deployment with a single auction in a timely manner is paramount.

Lastly, I commend the FCC for having greater focus on rural America under the Trump Administration. Any C-Band auction should preserve value for taxpayers, especially those in rural parts of the country. In the C-Band auction, as with others, a portion of the spectrum licenses ought to be reserved for firms serving rural areas, and a substantial percentage of the auction proceeds should be allocated to broadband programs administered by the FCC, with priority given to unserved communities.

It is important that the Commission adopt a framework for the C-Band through an auction that repurposes as much spectrum as feasible, in an open and transparent manner that benefits all Americans. The principles laid out in this letter offer the most effective path towards an expeditious and nationwide deployment of 5G.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cramer

United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
United States Senate
B240C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cramer:

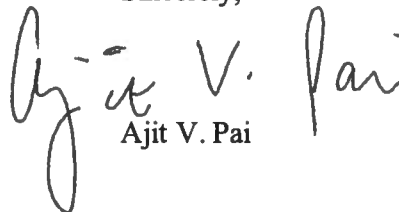
Thank you for your interest in the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing rulemaking related to spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." C-band spectrum is widely seen as a critical swath of mid-band spectrum that could help drive American leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This spectrum offers both geographic coverage and the capacity to transmit large amounts of data—a combination that is appealing to entrepreneurs and wireless consumers alike.

I previously announced that I would make a decision on how the FCC should proceed by this fall and outlined four principles that the FCC must advance through this rulemaking. *First*, we must make available a significant amount of C-band spectrum for 5G. *Second*, we must make C-band spectrum available for 5G quickly. *Third*, we must generate revenue for the federal government. And *fourth*, we must protect the services that are currently delivered using the C-band so they can continue to be delivered to the American people.

After much deliberation and a thorough review of the extensive record, I have concluded that the best way to advance these principles is through an auction of 280 megahertz of the C-band conducted by the Federal Communications Commission's excellent staff. With a quarter-century track record of transparent and successful auctions, I am confident that they will conduct a public auction that will afford all parties a fair opportunity to compete for this 5G spectrum, while preserving the availability of the upper 200 megahertz of this band for the continued delivery of programming.

Thank you once again for your interest. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai